

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

John W. Blossom, Molybdenum Commodity Specialist
U.S. Geological Survey
989 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-4964, Fax: (703) 648-7757
E-mail: jblossom@usgs.gov

Barbara J. McNair (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7952
Fax: (703) 648-7975

MINES FaxBack: (703) 648-4999
Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

MOLYBDENUM IN JUNE 1999

Domestic production of molybdenum in concentrate in June 1999 was about 5% greater than that of the previous month and was 5% less than that of June 1998, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Producer stocks of molybdenum in concentrate, oxide, and other product forms were 14,000 metric tons at the beginning of 1999 and 15,500 metric tons at the end of June 1999.

Included in this Mineral Industry Surveys are U.S. production, shipments, and stocks of molybdenum concentrates and materials, plus U.S. consumption, by end use, of molybdenum in the previous and current months; also included are trade data for the previous month. During the current month, Platt's Metals Week

U.S. monthly average price for molybdenum concentrate was \$3.748 per kilogram (\$1.700 per pound). The average price for dealer molybdenum oxide was \$6.054 per kilogram (\$2.746 per pound), and that for dealer ferromolybdenum was \$8.157 per kilogram (\$3.700 per pound).

For the week ending August 30, 1999, Metals Week U.S. average price for molybdenum concentrate was \$3.748 per kilogram (\$1.700 per pound). The average price for dealer molybdenum oxide was \$5.787 per kilogram (\$2.625 per pound), and that for ferromolybdenum was \$8.047 per kilogram (\$3.650 per pound).

TABLE 1
U.S. SALIENT MOLYBDENUM CONCENTRATE STATISTICS 1/

(Metric tons, contained molybdenum)

	1998 p/ January- December	1999		Year to date
		May r/	June	
Production	53,300	4,560	4,340	25,100
Shipments: 2/				
Domestic	34,300	3,620	3,240	19,300
Export	17,800	923	1,160	6,400

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits.

2/ Includes molybdc oxides, metal powder, ammonium molybdate, sodium molybdate, and other.

TABLE 2
U.S. REPORTED PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF MOLYBDENUM PRODUCTS 1/

(Metric tons, contained molybdenum)

	1998 p/ January- December	1999		Year to date
		May	June	
Gross production	57,200	3,030 r/	3,640	21,800
Internal consumption 2/	23,400	1,780 r/	1,750	10,500
Gross shipments	38,000	2,720	3,110	18,600

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits.

2/ Includes molybdc oxides, metal powder, ammonium molybdate, sodium molybdate, and other.

TABLE 3
U.S. REPORTED CONSUMPTION, BY END USES, AND CONSUMER STOCKS OF MOLYBDENUM MATERIALS 1/

(Kilograms, contained molybdenum)

End use	Molybdc oxides	Ferro molyb- denum 2/	Ammonium and sodium molybdate	Molyb- denum scrap	Other	Total
1999, May:						
Steel:						
Carbon	17,800	W	--	--	3,190	21,000
High-strength low-alloy	W	8,430	--	--	--	8,430
Stainless and heat-resisting	215,000	39,800	--	--	4,760	259,000
Full alloy	144,000	135,000	--	--	2,330	281,000
Tool	W	7,590	--	--	1,450	9,040
Total	377,000	191,000	--	--	11,700	579,000
Cast irons (gray, malleable, and ductile iron)	W	37,500	--	--	763	38,300
Superalloys	W	W	--	(3/)	76,600	76,600
Alloys: (other than steels, cast irons, and superalloys)						
Welding materials (structural and hard-facing)	W	W	--	--	6	6
Other alloys	542	162	--	--	6,290	6,990
Mill products made from metal powder 4/	--	--	--	--	170,000	170,000
Cemented carbides and related products 5/	--	--	--	--	2	2
Chemical and ceramic uses:	--	--				
Pigments	--	--	1,320	--	W	1,320
Catalysts	77,300	--	W	--	--	77,300
Other	W	--	--	--	1,710	1,710
Miscellaneous and unspecified uses:						
Lubricants	--	--	--	--	10,300	10,300
Other	210,000	32,400	74,200	--	14,900	332,000
Grand total	665,000	261,000	75,500	--	292,000	1,290,000
Stocks, May 31, 1999	656,000	339,000	3,920	23,200	820,000	1,840,000

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 3--Continued
U.S. REPORTED CONSUMPTION, BY END USES, AND CONSUMER STOCKS OF MOLYBDENUM MATERIALS 1/

(Kilograms, contained molybdenum)

End use	Molybdic oxides	Ferro molybdenum 2/	Ammonium and sodium molybdate	Molybdenum scrap	Other	Total
1999, June:						
Steel:						
Carbon	30,000	23,100	--	--	3,190	56,200
High-strength low-alloy	27,000	7,990	--	--	--	35,000
Stainless and heat-resisting	283,000	43,700	--	--	4,760	332,000
Full alloy	159,000	169,000	--	--	2,330	330,000
Tool	W	5,880	--	--	1,450	7,330
Total	499,000	250,000	--	--	11,700	760,000
Cast irons (gray, malleable, and ductile iron)	W	54,000	--	--	763	54,700
Superalloys	79,700	W	--	(3/)	100,000	180,000
Alloys: (other than steels, cast irons, and superalloys)						
Welding materials (structural and hard-facing)	W	W	--	--	6	6
Other alloys	171	136	--	--	6,290	6,600
Mill products made from metal powder 4/	--	--	--	--	155,000	155,000
Cemented carbides and related products 5/	--	--	--	--	2	2
Chemical and ceramic uses:	--					
Pigments	--	--	--	--	W	W
Catalysts	77,300	--	W	--	W	77,300
Other	W	--	--	--	4,060	4,060
Miscellaneous and unspecified uses:						
Lubricants	--	--	--	--	11,900	11,900
Other	75,000	8,040	74,200	--	14,900	172,000
Grand total	731,000	312,000	74,200	--	306,000	1,420,000
Stocks, June 30, 1999	586,000	349,000	3,480	14,800	822,000	1,780,000

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Other" of the "Miscellaneous and unspecified uses" category.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes calcium molybdate.

3/ Included in "Other" of the "Superalloys" category.

4/ Includes ingot, wire, rod, and sheet.

5/ Includes construction, mining, oil and gas, metal working machinery.

TABLE 4
U. S. EXPORTS OF MOLYBDENUM ORES AND CONCENTRATES
(Including roasted concentrate), BY COUNTRY 1/

(Kilograms, contained molybdenum)

Country	1998	1999		
		April	May	Year to date
Australia	81,700	9,510	1,770	23,300
Belgium	4,470,000	483,000	337,000	2,690,000
Brazil	59,400	295	3,220	5,250
Canada	994,000	132,000	67,800	532,000
Chile	6,840,000	316,000	306,000	1,450,000
China	424,000	--	--	--
Germany	460,000	11,800	11,700	46,700
Italy	448,000	12,000	17,500	122,000
Japan	4,410,000	130,000	189,000	1,050,000
Korea, Republic of	8,660	30,200	--	33,800
Mexico	4,220,000	10,900	--	125,000
Netherlands	12,800,000	447,000	347,000	2,810,000
Spain	119,000	--	--	1,130
Sweden	894,000	35,300	35,400	292,000
United Kingdom	5,480,000	282,000	343,000	1,980,000
Other	247,000	590	44,700	67,700
Total	42,000,000	1,900,000	1,700,000	11,200,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 5
U. S. EXPORTS OF FERROMOLYBDENUM, BY COUNTRY 1/

(Kilograms, contained molybdenum)

Country	1998	1999		
		April	May	Year to date
Australia	1,800	--	--	382
Canada	549,000	28,100	42,900	175,000
China	133,000	39,100	--	114,000
Japan	31,200	6,370	6,420	27,200
Korea, Republic of	1,610	--	--	327
Mexico	91,000	2,040	1,770	21,200
Other	852	--	599	599
Total	809,000	75,600	51,700	339,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF MOLYBDENUM PRODUCTS 1/

(Kilograms unless otherwise specified)

Material	1998			1999		
	January-December			May		
	Gross weight	Contained molybdenum	Value (c.i.f.) (thousands)	Gross weight	Contained molybdenum	Value (c.i.f.) (thousands)
Ore and concentrates roasted	8,020,000	5,090,000	\$39,700	1,010,000	568,000	\$3,100
Ore and concentrates other	2,710,000	1,480,000	7,810	17,000	8,840	34
Molybdenum chemicals:						
Oxides and hydroxides	1,180,000	NA	9,610	95,500	NA	602
Molybdates of ammonium	1,240,000	684,000	8,980	133,000	74,500	688
Molybdates (all others)	192,000	113,000	982	--	--	--
Molybdenum orange	2,050,000	NA	7,950	69,000	NA	361
Mixtures of inorganic compounds	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ferromolybdenum	7,690,000	4,830,000	44,000	824,000	512,000	3,820
Molybdenum powders	110,000	103,000	3,210	14,000	12,900	393
Molybdenum unwrought	145,000	137,000	2,110	5,680	5,680	204
Molybdenum waste and scrap	296,000	292,000	4,080	41,500	520,000	526
Molybdenum wire	5,530	NA	500	360	NA	32
Molybdenum other	7,850	NA	1,650	550	NA	99
Total	23,700,000	12,700,000	131,000	2,210,000	1,700,000	9,860

NA Not available.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census.